

CLAIMS

1. A method for determining rating data for services
in a communications network,
5 **characterised** by the steps of:
 accessing data associated with a service or a
subscriber (101)
 sending a rating request, including said accessed
data, to a distributed rating means (16,19,21) for
10 distributed rating based on distributed rating data related
to said service or subscriber (103-109),
 receiving resulting rating data from said distributed
rating means (15,16,21) (110), and
 determining a rating value for charging said
15 subscriber based on said received rating data (112).
2. A method according to claim 1, **characterised** in
that said distributed rating means (16,19,21) is operated
by a service provider (15), content provider, or value
20 added service provider.
3. A method according to any of the preceding claims,
characterised in that said rating request is sent from
central rating means (14,17,20) operated by a network
25 operator (13).
4. A method according to any of the preceding claims,
characterised by, before the step of sending said rating
request, the further step of determining pre-rating data
30 (102).
5. A method according to any of the preceding claims,
characterised by, before the step of charging said
account, the further step of determining final-rating data
35 (111).

6. A method according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised** in that said rating value is determined based on said pre-rating data, distributed rating data from said distributed rating means (15,16,19), and final-rating data.

7. A method for determining rating data for services in a communications network, **characterised** by the steps of:

10 receiving data associated with a service or subscriber (101) from central rating means (104),
accessing and determining rating data for said service or subscriber based on distributed rating data related to said service or subscriber and on said received data for transmission to said central rating means (105-108).

8. A method according to claim 7, **characterised** in that said distributed rating data is accessed and determined by distributed rating means (16,19,21).

9. A method according to claim 8, **characterised** in that said distributed rating means (16,19,21) is operated by a service provider (15), content provider, or value added service provider.

10. A method according to any of the claims 7-9, **characterised** in that said central rating means (14,17,20) is operated by a network operator (13).

11. A computer program comprising program instructions for causing a computer to perform the method of any of the claims 1-10.

12. A computer program on a carrier and comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer to perform the method according to claims 1-10.

5 13. A computer program according to claim 12, wherein said carrier is a record medium, computer memory, read-only memory or an electrical carrier signal.

10 14. A distributed rating system for determining rating data for pre-paid services in a communications network;

 characterised by central rating means (14,17,20) including a computer apparatus adapted to access service data associated with a service or subscriber,

15 send a rating request, including said accessed data, to a distributed rating means (16,19,21) for distributed rating based on distributed rating data (19) related to said service or subscriber,

20 receive resulting rating data from said distributed rating means (16,19,21), and

 determine a rating value for charging a pre-paid account (18) of said subscriber based on said received rating data.

25 15. A distributed rating system as in claim 14, wherein said system is a mobile communications system.

30 16. A distributed rating system as in claim 14, wherein said system is an IN/CAMEL system.

 17. A distributed rating system as in any of the claims 14-16, wherein said service is a prepaid service.

18. A distributed rating system as in any of the claims 14-17, wherein said service is an electronic commerce/payment service.

5 19. A distributed rating system as in any of the claims 14-18, wherein said resulting rating data is cost per time unit or data volume, per event, per content, a set of tariff data including cost, duration/volume, time/volume interval, or a specific scaling factor.

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20. A distributed rating system for determining rating data for pre-paid services in a communications network,

15 **characterised** by distributed rating means (16,19,21) including a computer apparatus adapted to receive data associated with a service or subscriber from central rating means (14,17,20),
access and determining rating data for said service
20 or subscriber ~~based~~ on distributed rating data related to said service or subscriber and on said received service data for transmission to said central rating means.